The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 8, NO. 1. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1918. WHOLE NO. 365.

ARIZONA'S GOVERNOR DEFENDS UNION SHOP

Phoenix, Ariz., March 20.—Governor Hunt officially made claim of Governor Wiley Mass. Metal Trades association, which wrote him on the value of the "open shop," which it refers to as "open shop."

Governor Hunt replies:

"I am in receipt of your letter and statistical report of the 5th instant, issued for the people who may believe that these statistics approve financial conditions, the moral ether or the general conditions of the workers. I am one of those persons who do so believe and do still so think, from the facts of your very convincing statistics.

"Your well-intentioned society appears to be one of those organizations incapable of realizing that your community is reaping all the benefits of organized labor without sharing any of the responsibility. In other words, such a community is a parasite to a world fighting for democracy, and claims such as you are putting forth are not only misleading but unchristian.

"I find nothing in your statistics to produce confidence in labor or any other limitations prevailing in your city. There is nothing to indicate whether women and children replaced around labor by women and children; there is nothing to indicate that this state are receiving the beneficent effects of a minimum wage, or any of the other laws that organized labor has fought for and which are doing so much to solve our industrial problems in Arizona."

HOME OWNERS DECREASE.

Columbus, Ohio, March 20.—The state health and old age pension commission of Ohio, in charge of legislature to investigate these questions, reports that 51.2 per cent of the homes in this state are owned by residents, and of these 24.6 per cent are free from debt.

The percentage who home owners is gradually decreasing. In the federal census of 1900 to 1910 there was a decline from 54.3 to 53.2 per cent. This is a greater decrease than in the 10 years before as a whole. Farmers, with 71.8 per cent show a larger per cent of home ownership, and of these 34.2 per cent are owned outright.

A study is made in the number of persons in the family. In 1910 the average home consisted of 4.1 persons, of which number 1.47 were children.

Another interesting fact brought out is that married people live to a greater age than the single folks. Of the number of men in Ohio, over 65 years of age, 65.5 per cent were married and 27.5 per cent were widowed, while only 6 per cent were single. Of women 65 years of age 39.5 were married and 57.5 per cent were widowed.

The commission promises other reports on Ohio's social and economic life.

SET WAGES FOR WOMEN.

San Francisco, March 20.—The state industrial welfare commission has fixed a minimum wage of $16 a week for women and girls employed in the fruit and vegetable industry, $8 a week for inexperienced women and minors, an eight-hour day and time and one-fourth for overtime. Where wages are paid on a piece or piece-rate basis, the $16 and $8 rates shall serve as standards.

The commission gives notice that it will exercise exclusive jurisdiction over all canneries and packing houses in the state, which refers to the administration and interpretation of its orders.

MAY CHANGE THRIFT STAMPS

Washington, March 20.—Because of complaints that some postmasters decline to exchange thrift stamps for war saving certificates, the federal post office department has called attention to the law, which provides that postmasters shall accept thrift stamps in payment for war savings certificates when presented by buyers with the required amount of cash, regardless of where purchased.

WANTS STATE TO PAY MORE.

Albany, N. Y., March 20.—A pending bill in the state assembly and state senate provides that during the war the salaries of all employees below $2 the state who receive $1,600 or less annually shall be increased 20 per cent, and those receiving between $1,600 and $2,000 shall be increased 15 per cent.

SENATE VOTES TIMBER BILL.

Washington, March 20.—The war department bill empowering the president to requisition timber and lumber to tender to logging operations for the army, navy and emergency fleet corporation has been approved by the senate and now goes to the house.

"OPEN SHOP" CLAIM AGAIN PROVEN FALSE

Washington, March 20.—The "open shop" theory of lake vessel owners, when put into practice, has "no chance" against the union shop, in fact, says the federal bureau of labor statistics in a report on the workings of an employment system of the Lake Carriers' association, which operates over 60 per cent of the lake fleet.

For 10 years the carriers have operated a "welfare plan." Assembly rooms were maintained in all the ports and sailors were given the privileges of these rooms for an annual fee of $5. Each year a free ticket was given each sailor, who had to secure employment through the agency in charge of the rooms. The book was kept by the ship captain until he signed up for the trip, and if the sailor did not have a book he could secure employment at one of the 4,000 vessels with much difficulty. If the Lake Carriers' association found that his membership was denied him the assembly room's privileges, he was practically out of the business.

The Sailers' union ordered a strike last October to abolish this system and the carriers' association met the shipping board it would abolish the discharge book system if the board so recommended. After an investigation, the shipping board sustained the sailors.

The federal bureau of labor statistics, says:

"At the time the 'welfare plan' was put into operation the association announced that it had definitely adopted the 'open-shop principle.' The majority of the welfare men are nonunion men and the union men who register under the plan cease to be an active union man."

"As an indication of the significance with the so-called 'welfare plan,' it is shown that in 1916 the rate of membership in the labor unions of lakers was more than 60 per cent.

P. O. SPEED SYSTEM SHOWN IN U. S. SENATE

Washington, March 20.—"All witnesses this side of the United States will never remove from my mind the impression I received," said Senator Reed, of Missouri, in a speech on the "speeding up" system in the post office department.

"I saw scores and scores and scores and scores of young women and middle-aged women and some old women at work, and a few men scattered among them, though—sitting down at a newfangled machine, and each of them had before her eyes, where she could see it, a card with a post office number upon it, and a little machine showing the amount of some postal transaction," said Senator Reed.

"Not one of them had a money order for 10 cents or it may have been one for $10, she was required to touch exactly the right keys, to punch exactly the right number in a card, and then she was given exactly the right amount in dollars or cents, and if she missed a single figure, if she touched the wrong key, or struck one too soon and when she had a certain number of dockage marks against her her pay for the day was docked and she was liable to discharge. So hour after hour and day after day, month after month, like automatons, like human machines, their eyes glued upon the paper before them, and their fingers working almost, it seems, by magic, touching with great rapidity these keys, then quickly seizing another card and replacing the one just completed. Employes in that department tell me that recently a bill passed that does not record the fact that some poor girl or woman is stricken with nervous prostration. A body has been broken on the wheel of labor-miscarriage, worn-out human machinery—mere wastage, no longer to be counted.

"Eight hours and a half a day at that kind of work is about as bad as it was to serve in the galleys of old Rome."

STANDARD OIL'S NEW PLAN.

Bayonne, N. J., March 20.—Standard oil is nibbling at collective bargaining.

The bayonne plant of the Standard Mr. Rockefeller's company will jump the 3 cent an hour increase in wages as a whole. Farmers, with 71.8 per cent show a larger per cent of home ownership, and of these 34.2 per cent are owned outright.

A study is made in the number of persons in the family. In 1910 the average home consisted of 4.1 persons, of which number 1.47.

Another interesting fact brought out is that married people live to a greater age than the single folks. Of the number of men in Ohio, over 65 years of age, 65.5 per cent were married and 27.5 per cent were widowed, while only 6 per cent were single. Of women 65 years of age 39.5 were married and 57.5 per cent were widowed.

The commission promises other reports on Ohio's social and economic life.

Hence the announcement that workers in standard oil plants hereafter shall elect, by secret ballot, a representative to meet with officers of the company and speak for the employes. One representative for each 150 workers will be chosen.

The plan for this was selected by the employes will be their duly accredited representatives at a joint meeting with representatives of the company to be held in No. 26 Broadway, April 1. The purpose of the meeting is to have organized and of discussing matters of mutual concern, the notice says.

"They will have the right to call representatives at all subsequent meetings and in all matters between the company and its employes, and the employes designate some other person to represent them."

WHY FOOD IS NEEDED.

Baltimore, March 20.—The reason for continued appeals of the food administration for more food and less meat is shown in an address by M. Andre Tardieu, French high commissioner, to the food conference in this city.

France has always been a heavy consumer of wheat, before the war the amount consumed was 700,000 tons a month. This has been cut to about 500,000 tons, a reduction of 30 per cent. Rations of soldiers at the front have been affected by this reduction, although the soldiers' rations cut less than the civilians' rations. The French soldier now gets 21 ounces of bread, instead of 25, ounces as at the beginning of the war. The civilian ration has been cut from the normal consumption of about 14 ounces to 10 ounces. The shortage of cereals has forced the French to kill their cattle, and the consumption of other foods, such as sugar, rice, vegetables, oils and fats has been increased.

Every American is being urged to make small contributions of food, that there may be saved and sent to Europe may be large, as the French people have borne with fortitude drastic food reductions which have mobilized 7,000,000 men out of a population of 40,000,000 and have suffered a loss of nearly 1,000,000 men killed and 1,000,000 maimed.

TO INITIATE LAWS.

Olympia, Wash., March 20.—The joint legislative committee of the state federation of labor, state grange, direct legislation league and state farmers' union has prepared petitions to secure 57,781 signatures that three initiative measures may be submitted to Washington's referendum.

The measures include a limitation of injunctions in strike times similar to the federal Clayton law.

Partisan politics is abolished by another proposal.

The third measure is intended to permit municipalities and townships to sell products and fuel on commission for the producers. The people are compelled to own and operate mills, warehouses, elevators, cold storage plants and fuel yards. Provision is made for a complete transportation systems and collection of food products and fuel and reduced distributing it to the consumer.

U. S. SELLS INSURANCE.

Washington, March 20.—Uncle Sam is the world's best insurance agent and he is going to his business with a will. Since the war began 1,000,000 policies of insurance upon the lives of soldiers and sailors, calling for premiums of $8,312,223. This profit was $4,425,633 larger than the year before.

SEAMEN'S LAW SEEMS SAFE.

Washington, March 20.—President Furuseth, of the International Seamen's union, in a letter to members of that organization, says:

"It is to be hoped that the seamen will not seek other work at this time. The seamen's act is safe now as long as the organization holds the seamen to do the work needed, and it is up to the seamen to continue to do the work needed. The ready service that the seamen have given is appreciated."

VIOLATE LABOR LAW.

Wheeling, W. Va., March 20.—The manager of the Wheeling box exchange has been fined and ordered to pay court costs for violating the state law which prohibits the employment of a boy under 16 years of age without a permit from school authorities.

PLUMBERS REDUCE HOURS.

Vineland, N. J., March 20.—An eight-hour day and wage increase of $5 per day for the Plumbers' union.

Courts Can Not Indefinitely Bar Social Progress

BY PRESIDENT GOMPERS, IN AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

The decision of the United States supreme court in Hitchman Coal and Coke company versus John Mitchell, et al, in which Justice Pitney et al. is of greater significance to labor than any other court decision. The opinion involves the existence of the organized labor movement. What attention is concerned with is not legal correctness of the court's position, but the industrial policy he would establish. Courts or any other nation permit the organized labor movement to be crushed by court injunctions? I say, aye, out of our civic, political and social life!

The reasoning of the supreme court in the Hitchmen case is the fallacy that theoretical legal equality carries with it industrial equality. It presumes that the individual miner can bargain with a coal operator. It assumes that if the coal operator offers employment on condition that the miner have no relation with a trade union, he is free to accept or reject. Though that is true in form it is not physically or morally untrue. Coercion through responsibility for the support of wife and through need of food is just as real coercion in the legal sense.

The power which industrial operators have and exercise the legal right to refuse to employ miners who join a trade union, but have they the moral and the social right?

Individual rights must be made to square with general welfare. Every freedom is regulated by society. Exercise of rights whether by employers or employes are tempered by a sense of moral responsibility.

Industrial and social necessity has developed a group of rights—rights developing out of—rights—because rights alone make possible industrial rights for individuals.

The case in the miners' case, as the dissenting opinion written by Justice Brandeis points out, is the conflict between mine workers who insist on "closed non-union shop" and miners who want a "closed union shop." The issue will be decided in the industrial field.

This situation makes possible rational method of collective bargaining because they meet as equals—employers controlling opportunities for collective employment, employes controlling collective labor power.

But now comes the court interjects this principle: Employers may by force and violence, by threat and boycott action; that when an employer declares that workers can not organize, workers must, if they would sign away their legal and moral rights; that as a condition precedent to obtaining such employment this surrender of legal and moral rights must be made, and that when these workers under the stress of their needs have signed such a surrender, the right of association to them is forever barred, and that the courts will sustain the employers in such a contention as to equity powers of courts for that purpose.

Any definition of the nature of jurisdiction of equity is necessarily fateful. In America system was originally taken from the British, which was in which courts followed very closely. Modifications of the administration of equity have been introduced in many of the states. In England equity emanated from the royal prerogatives of the king to correct law on principles of natural justice and to protect the weak and defenseless.

Equity is judge-made law necessary to correct the injustice of common law and the early crude courts. It is personal in nature. Originally the subjects of the king had the right to appeal to him for justice. The custom grew up for the king to refer many of these appeals to the chancellor who was virtually his secretary. Many of the early chancellors were ecclesiastics and hence elements of the Roman law were injected into British. During the reign of Edward III the court of chancery ceased to follow the king. The courts of equity which supplemented and corrected the common law courts of the king's bench, the common pleas and exchequer became the important element in English justice. The decisions of equity courts are upon principles of equity which dealt with trusts, mortgages, assignments, specific performance, fraud, accident, equity, estoppel, conversion and reconversion, adjustment and liens.

It has taken decades to establish the thought that human labor power is part of a free human being and therefore not property. After years of struggle this thought was crystallized into law by the congress of the United States which brought into the Clayton anti-trust act the declaration that the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce. However, this new principle is still a crystallizing principle in law, will finally establish itself through precedents and despite the training of the judiciary which is always some years behind the thought and the aspirations of men and women who must deal with the affairs of life and industry. Many of the early decisions were adverse to labor, but upon things as they are. Courts can not indefinitely bar progress.

SYMPATHETIC STRIKE IS LEGAL, SAYS COURT

Columbus, Ohio, March 20.—The court of appeals has reversed a $500 damage award against the Painters' union and holds that these workers have a right to indice other unionists to strike in sympathy with them because of a violation of contract.

A contractor agreed to employ union labor in the erection of a theater and then undertook to do the work himself, although not a member of any of the building trades and with the union. Union painters threatened to call other union building craftsmen to suspend work on the building if the contract was not carried out. The work was rushed into court and secured $500 damages. The decision is reversed by the court of appeals, which rules:

"The contract was one for the benefit of union labor. After the contract had been executed and acted upon by union workman the same became a valid obligation.

"The owner, in contracting with union labor, clearly contemplated that the work or even material should be performed by union labor. This contract could not, in our judgment, be fulfilled by a refusal to deal with or more non-union contractors to personally perform the labor.

"They will have the authority upholds the right of a labor union, in the absence of express agreement, to strike and procure the withdrawal of union labor from a given work, or other parts of the building operations where no violation or other unlawful means are employed, and where the object of the strike is not unlawful."

INTERESTED AT LAST.

San Juan, Porto Rico, March 20.—Governor Yager, the chief executive of this island, has at last taken official notice of a strike of agricultural laborers that is affecting the sugar industry.

The governor writes to the strikers that "it is inconsistent and unfortunate" that they have suspended work without first having submitted their demands for increased wages to their employers.

The strikers assume that the governor is totally in the dark regarding this strike, which affects Porto Rican economic life, and they proceed to assure him that for five months they pleaded with their employers for a living wage and that

"The laborers," say the strikers, "who are willing to give their lives to their newly adopted country, do not wish to give away their labor to those who, during the last few months of these war times to make themselves millionaires. There must be justice for all, whether weak or strong."

MAYOR DEFENDS LABOR.

Bridgeport, Conn, March 20.—At a mass meeting held under the auspices of the central labor union Mayor Wilson declared that the stories that organized labor was interfering with the progress of the war and was demanding exorbitant wages, while "the manufacturers are good," and reports that the working men are not only doing their part, morally and financially, but they are giving up their time and their sons' lives for democracy. "To think anything else is an insult to democracy or labor organized labor," said the mayor.

The principal addresses were made by W. A. Appleton and Joshua Butterworth, members of the British labor commission, now touring the United States.

BIG PROFITS IN COAL

New York, March 20.—The Consolidation Coal company reports net earnings of $26,112,294 in 1917, a gain of $8,770,828 over the preceding year. Nearly $9,000,000 was set aside for depletion and an additional half million dollars was set aside for depreciation of coal properties, an item which did not appear in the preceding years reports. After $1,491,667 was set aside for federal and war taxes, there remained $15,119,626 available for dividends of $8,312,223. This profit was $4,425,633 larger than the year before.

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CONSTANT AGITATION ON UNIONISM NEEDED

San Antonio, Tex., March 20.—The necessity for constant application of the A. B. C. principles of organization and education among all workers, regardless of craft or calling, was shown by Samuel Gompers, secretary, in his report to the annual convention of the Texas state federation of labor.

"My experience of the past few months," he said, "has caused me to definitely reach the conclusion that permanent relief from much we complain of cannot be secured until we have succeeded in the education of the people to a thorough understanding of the principles, aims and accomplishments of organized labor.

"I have found the unskilled worker and the unorganized laborer under circumstances where I know he could not have been employed had he known the principles of labor. I have also been him supporting labor's enemies in the political field because he does not understand what we are seeking in his behalf.

"I am firmly of the opinion that before we have succeeded in reaching the good we seek that a campaign of education covering all the industrial and rural districts must be engaged in. To that end I respectfully suggest that a special committee be appointed at this convention whose duty it shall be to make a study of the needs in this direction and to bring in a report with recommendations covering same.

"I have seen the effect of this lack of education in our legislative halls; the unorganized worker is afraid of life we find many opposing organized labor in the name of labor's ignorance of our objects and accomplishments. I know to carry on the educational campaign necessary will be a penditure of large sums of money, but the money expended would be far less than the loss in wages and the cost of strikes, in loss of legislation, and in many ways."

FAVORS HEALTH INSURANCE.

Albany, N. Y., March 20.—In a statement urging the adoption of a health insurance bill by the state legislature, Edward A. Duffy, secretary of the New York state federation of labor, says benefits which would accrue to industry from such a measure are the securing of maximum, sustained efficiency, with the lowest per efficiency of healthy workers; reducing the high cost of labor turnover due to sickness; safeguarding the physical vigor of the labor population by adequate maternity care; bringing about the health habits of workers; compensation resulted in "safety first;" because of the financial interest, to adopt measures of prevention; insuring sound, business-like management of the sick funds, placing the health insurance work "beyond the reach of politicians as well as beyond the commercial temptations of insurance company agents," and relieving enlightened, humane employers from the burden of labor laws now assumed by indifferent employers.

LABOR LAWS MUST STAND.

Washington, March 20.—The war will not bring a set back to the labor standards for women and children, says Miss Grace Abbott, chief of the child labor division of the department of labor's children's bureau. Miss Abbott announces that she has received a letter from W. S. Gifford, director of the council of national defense, in which he said:

"The council of national defense unites with the children's bureau of the department of labor in urging that laws relating to the hours and conditions of labor of women and children should be rigorously enforced."

Miss Abbott said:

"The people of the United States are attacking the problem of child care and protection in this spirit, and the threatening manifestations of lawlessness of compulsory education and child labor is being advocated as peculiarly necessary in the present industrial conditions which will welcome the end of the war."

URGE PENSION AND HOME.

Tulsa, Okla., March 20.—The aged painters' home and pension committee of Painters' union No. 955 is conducting an active campaign for funds to erect a home and pension for these craftsmen. Other locals throughout the country are co-operating in the work which will be voted on at the July referendum of the brotherhood of painters and paperhangers.

TOBACCO WORKERS STRIKE.

St. Louis, Mo., March 20.—About 1,500 men, women and girls have suspended work in the plants of the Liggett & Myers Tobacco company to enforce living conditions. This concern is a subsidiary of the tobacco trust, and in making every effort to break the strike rather than accord justice to its employes.

EIGHT HOURS IS ENOUGH.

Washington, March 20.—While discussing the question of a working day last week, United States Senator Williams said that eight hours is a fair day's work for almost anybody in any sort of work, and that is the universal labor, for that matter.

EMPLOYERS FACING CHANGED CONDITIONS

Indianapolis, March 20.—The time has passed when employers can defy the A. B. C. principles of organization of workers in search of better conditions, says the United Mine Workers' journal.

"Conditions under which unorganized men work," says this paper, "are not tolerated long. Whenever it was only possible to enforce the acceptance of low wages while the employer could replace an entire working force with newly arrived immigrants, insane as that condition was.

"As soon as the immigrants learn of the possibility for better working conditions through organization they are the foremost to improve this opportunity.

"That is proven by the fact that large employers who seek to maintain low wage standards, even to that end, deny the right to organize, have found it necessary to adopt many of the methods of the intelligent entire new working forces.

"Cessation of immigration made impracticable such wholesale shifting of populations. Employers of labor must recognize this change.

"The people of the United States into the war is not the reason of the change in conditions. Conditions in the country's present necessity requires that the employers must recognize the new conditions and in accordance therein with their employes.

NIGHT WORK IN P. O.

Washington, March 20.—In urging higher wages for post office employes, Congressman Tague, last week, said that approximately 39 per cent of the post office force was compelled to work at night because most business houses and other large patrons of the post office department do mail after the close of the business day.

"The night work, performed as it is by the clerks standing at a letter case for eight hours, under the glare of artificial light, with the eyes constantly employed, deciphering all kinds of addresses, is fearfully detrimental to health, and seriously impairs the eyesight," he said.

"Night work constitutes the most discouraging feature that confronts men entering the postal service, and seems to cut off all of the natural social life of the community; it destroys the incentive to study and efficiency of healthy workers; reducing the high cost of labor turnover due to sickness; disturbing the physical vigor of the labor population by adequate maternity care; bringing about the health habits of workers; compensation resulted in "safety first;" because of the financial interest, to adopt measures of prevention; insuring sound, business-like management of the sick funds, placing the health insurance work "beyond the reach of politicians as well as beyond the commercial temptations of insurance company agents," and relieving enlightened, humane employers from the burden of labor laws now assumed by indifferent employers.

WESTERN UNION'S BIG YEAR.

New York, March 20.—The financial report of the Western Union Telegraph company for the fiscal year shows that all records were smashed. The volume of business was 61,000,000 messages in 1916, and 66 per cent larger than in 1914. The total income was $25,000,000, $5,000,000 more than the year before. The management set aside $2,600,000 for depreciation, as been set in the general account of 1916.

During the year the company maintained the hostility to any form of organization among its employes, who have decided that on April 6 next they will challenge Western Union to regulate their live by holding mass meetings and discussing organization.

The telegraphers are asking trade unionists to assist them in creating a favorable sentiment for labor, that men and women who have been denied the right to associate with organized labor.

MINE OPERATORS STRIKE.

Denver, March 20.—Coal operators in this state are objecting to lower prices ordered by the state fuel administrator and many of them have forgot their pledges to support the order. A reduction in Colorado's coal output of 2,500,000 tons is the result, while many miners are out on strike.

This attempt to aid the kaiser—to use the language of the public press—has been unofficially terminated by eagle-eyed citizens, who protest when they read of coal strikes to meet the high cost of living.

ONLY SKILLED ARE SCARCE.

Washington, March 20.—The only labor shortage is for men who have had an actual experience in ship building, according to a statement issued by the United States employment service, which is furnishing labor for all yards. Approximately 50,000 men are now engaged in this industry and 150,000 more will be needed during the next six months. It is stated that due to the present time the losses from labor turnover have been tremendous.

ENGINEERS WANT MORE.

Baltimore, March 20.—The Hoisting and Portable Engineers' union has asked for a wage increase to 80 cents an hour, with double time for overtime.

ENGINEERS RAISE WAGES.

Brockton, Mass., March 20.—Substantial wage increases have been granted stationary engineers by the Brockton board of trade. The new scale provides for a minimum wage of $3 a day of eight hours.

WORKERS GAN ASSIST UNION TELEGRAPHERS

Chicago, March 20.—The Commercial Telegraphers' union has set April 6 as the date when every worker in this calling will openly declare his right to join labor union.

These workers will challenge the spy system maintained by the Western Union and publicly assert every organized worker and trade union should assist them by demanding that their employers grant employes a free men and women.

Of great aid to the telegraphers' movement is public opinion, and citizens generally should be informed of the methods employed by these companies to keep their workers in subjection.

Jacksonville, Fla., Western Union has discharged 20 of its employes who are suspected of being friendly to unionism. The entire telegraphers point to this incident as one more reason why employes should be given the right to organize, and that the government and not the company is the proper authority to deal with telegraphers say that bad working conditions are maintained through the refusal of the government disclaims to meet out to any one who suggests organization.

It is now proposed to boldly declare on April 29 that democracy in this calling must exist, and that telegraphers have the right to organize, that they purpose to exercise that right. Citizens generally are urged to assist these workers by making public their grievance.

MONEY BUYS BREAD.

Chicago, March 20.—Money and not patriotism, is the basis of bread, a point made by the International Steam Engineer which refers to the refusal of the government to draft stationary engineers if they will accept low wages and the long work day.

"The dream of some day being a superman who is a manager has led multitudes of men to their jobs and kept them docile and hopeful until they were ready for the draft, when they have been awakened to the fact that they were bunoced all their lives and have failed to provide that only a small percentage of working people get pensions after their period of apprenticeship.

"Engineers must learn to look upon wages earning as a business proposition. They have labor to sell and they have a right to set the price and have the right to say about working conditions and enjoy their privileges as they go along and not wait for some boss or labor promotion or some special recognition some time in the future."

TO SUPPLY FARM WORKERS.

Washington, March 20.—The farm service bill, providing for a federal employment service has increased appropriations for supplying labor to the farms, and has been amended to include farm labor agents. Other aids will be the department of agriculture, the state press and commercial bodies.

The department of labor's study has convinced it that while there will be no severe shortage of farm labor, there is sufficient available labor to meet the demands of agriculture if the farmers co-operate by outlining their demands with definiteness and by the use of the machinery of the public employment service. It is suggested that this can most readily be done by asking the rural correspondent to answer for a blank and filling it at once.

WIN ELECTRIC STRIKE.

St. Louis, Mo., March 20.—After a two weeks' strike the Wagner Electric company has concluded that it is cost-by business to deal with employes who have formed a union, and there will be no discrimination hereafter. About 1,000 men were affected by the strike. In the settlement, which provides that victimized employes shall be reinstated as fast as vacancies occur, the union will overtime on all government work and a joint committee to adjust wage differences shall be established.

MUST REPORT ACCIDENTS.

Des Moines, Iowa, March 20.—Iowa employers cannot ignore the provisions of the state workmen's compensation law, which requires the reporting of their accidents to the state after it occurs, says Industrial Commissioner Funk. Several firms have been fined for their negligence in this respect.

TIN WORKERS STRIKE.

Martins Ferry, Ohio, March 20.—Because of bad working conditions employes of the Laughlin mill have suspended work. About 300 men, members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, are involved.

FOUNDRY EMPLOYES GAIN.

Taunton, Mass., March 20.—Foundry Employes' union No. 23 has secured a 10 per cent increase in wages.

SHALL JUDGE-MADE LAW REPLACE COMMON RIGHT

Los Angeles, Cal., March 20.—Organized labor in this city is contributing $5,000 to pay for printing and attorney fees that the state supreme court may decide this question:

"Shall judge-made law replace common right?"

Judge Frank G. Finlayson believes in the affirmative, as shown by his injunction against striking steel workers employed by the Southern California Iron and Steel company. The suit was instituted by the amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers in a "conspiracy" that has conjured to defend a denial of the most primitive rights.

The prohibits strikers, either singly or collectively, from going to the homes of strike-breakers to induce them to quit, and from congregating, either singly or collectively, "in any manner whatsoever within the jurisdiction of this court." Under this order the unionists can be debarred from the holding a meeting of their labor organization.

The injunction further orders the strikers not "to stop or to intercept or to persuade any employe of plaintiff to leave the employ of the plaintiff."

The last state legislature passed an act similar to the Clayton law, but this attempt to check California industrial warfare by law was overwhelmingly vetoed by Governor Stephens. The injunction against the steel workers is being used by organized labor to impress upon citizens the danger of judge-made law, notifying courts, by legislative action, that the injunction must be used as originally intended. There the plaintiff has no redress through law, and that judicial usurpers shall not deny constitutional guarantees.

HAVE ENOUGH KEY MEN.

Chicago, March 20.—According to Colonel Wildman of the United States signal corps, the war department is not in need of any more Morse telegraphers for military service, says the Commercial Telegraphers' journal.

"More than half of the telegraphers who attended the training school at the great lakes have been commissioned and placed in the reserve," continues this paper. "Yet misguided patriots are busily engaged in Morse telegraphy in order to relieve a shortage that does not exist.

"The greatest economic crime that can be perpetrated upon the youth of the nation is to train them for a vocation where their services cannot be utilized. It is worse than the leading men in the so-called 'blind alleys' of industry. Nevertheless there is a number of schools and institutes that are teaching telegraphy to tens of thousands annually in the so-called shortage of telegraphers. The telegraph companies are refusing to accept expert telegraphers and are on the one hand, while trying to create the impression of a shortage on the other.

"According to some of the highest officials in the telegraph industry days of Morse telegraphy are numbered. The automatic machine and the telephone are making progress all the time. The railroads have been changing their telegraph and telephone systems steadily for nearly 10 years, driving thousands of telegraphers into other lines of industry."

OPPOSE SECESSION

Indianapolis, March 20.—The membership of the United Mine Workers is warned of the consequences of secession in a circular signed by Frank J. Hayes, president, John P. White, vice president, and William Green, secretary, who call attention to a rump movement in Illinois.

"The duty of the members of our organization is plain," it is stated. "There can be only one union of coal miners in this country. The A. F. of L. recognizes it as the only organized labor movement of America, is pledged to recognize this principle."

Reference is made to the constitution of the United Mine Workers, which says that no person shall be a member who accepts affiliation outside of the bona fide trade union movement.

"There is no middle ground in this issue," says the circular. "It is simply a question of being for the United Mine Workers or against the United Mine Workers, and we will endeavor to construe all branches of the international organization to refrain from in any way aiding or abetting the movement to secede. Due recognition to the members of this so-called 'independent union of coal miners of America.'"

WOMEN EXPLOITERS HIT.

San Antonio, Tex., March 20.—In his report to the annual convention of the Texas federation of labor, President Cunningham paid his respects to exploiters of women and children in war times.

"My attention has been called," he said, "to many instances where in communities where men have been called to war where unscrupulous employers have endeavored to exploit labor, especially the labor of females and children. In every instance this practice was made by telegraph companies, railroad corporations and other large employers of labor."

"The excuse offered was 'labor shortage,' but I have failed to find a substantial case of female labor where a shortage really existed, the real and only purpose being to secure cheaper labor at less cost, paying the females much less than had formerly been the case, and displacing males who were compelled to seek new employment."

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Laramie, Wyo., March 20.—The Typographical union has raised wages for week. The new rates are $27 a week for day work and $30 for night work.

Cheyenne, Wyo., March 20.—Substantial wage increases have been granted and secured by the Typographical union. A wage increase of $3 per week for day workers, effective on January 1 next year and on January 1, 1920, the scale will be raised $3 more, to $36.

WORK ORDERED STOPPED.

Philadelphia, March 20.—The determination of the government to stop work at a successful end is shown by its order for the cessation of all unnecessary improvements in this city that will amount to $2,000,000. It is believed that a total tie-up of subway work until after the war may result.

METAL WORKERS GAIN.

Hamilton, Ontario, March 20.—Organized metal workers have increased wages from 45 to 50 cents an hour, although the rate is 5 cents less than the Toronto scale.

THIRD LIBERTY LOAN.

Washington, March 20.—Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo announces that citizens will be called upon to subscribe to the third issue of Liberty loans to the amount of $3,000,000,000, which will bear 4½ per cent interest.

Other Liberty loan issues will now bear the same rate of interest. That is, those who bought Liberty loans of the 1 issue, which bear 3 per cent, and those who bought Liberty loans of the second issue, bearing 3½ per cent, will be permitted to convert these holdings to 4½ per cent securities.

Liberty loans are guaranteed by the strongest security on earth—the United States government, which pledges its faith, the bond depositor and pledges the holder of a land or a home title that no one shall disturb his property.

The faith of the people stands with his law behind every other value, now asks citizens to loan him money and he will pay 4½ per cent interest.

The only practical difference between a hundred dollar greenback and a hundred dollar bond is that one of his Liberty bonds is that the greenback must be deposited in a bank, but the bond instead will draw interest while the Liberty bond draws interest while locked away in some safe place, with the owner constantly receiving his small part to sustain our government in peace and war.

WAR'S TOLL ON CHILDREN.

Washington, March 20.—The importance of the movement to conserve the child life of the nation is indicated by the fact that while the 8,000,000 counting stillbirths, 300,000 deaths a year in this country of children under 5 years of age, most of these deaths being preventable, says Dr. Franklin Martin, director general of the mental medical board, council of national defense.

"Moreover," he says, "it has been true that during the war has fallen heavily upon those least directly engaged in its activities—the very young and the aged. Nor must we forget that it has not been possible to pay due regard to their health. Civilian life suffers through the taking of doctors for military medical, surgical and sanitary duty, of nurses and field hospital, so that the doctors left, behind are often unable to cope with all the sickness of their communities. The result being a greater mortality percentage."

To remedy this situation the council of national defense has created a child welfare department, Dr. Martin says that while the effects of the war thus far are hardly appreciable so far as the United States is concerned, if the United States is concerned, America may well take warning and give consideration to the situation which has led to a less alarming degree of the other nations that have been at war for three years and seven months.

PROTECT CASUAL WORKERS.

Springfield, Ill., March 20.—The state department of labor received 36 complaints during the month of unpaid wages victimized by private, employment agencies, and in all but two cases which are now in court the agencies were forced to settle claims for money that had been paid under false pretenses.

The department of labor is conducting a campaign to show that it is necessary for the victimized worker to make complaint, and this is being urged.

MUST-WORK LAW UPHELD.

Baltimore, March 20.—Judge Stump, of the city court, has upheld Maryland's compulsory labor law, which applies to all able-bodied male persons between the ages of 18 and 50 years.

"The law exempts persons in this city and in Allegeny county who belong to organized labor, because of differences with employers.

Judge Stump ruled that this law is constitutional and that all persons who are within the general police regulations.

WANT SHORTER HOURS.

Madison, Wis., March 20.—Organized barbers in this city have suspended work and adopted an eight-hour day. The employers are willing to reduce hours—if the barbers return it to them by surrendering a weekly half holiday.

ST. LOUIS PAINTERS GAIN.

St. Louis, Mo., March 20.—Organized painters in this city have secured from 42½ cents an hour with double time for overtime. A two-year agreement has been signed by the Master Painters' association.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HAS SHOWN ITS WORTH

Washington, March 30.—In "A Message to Manufacturers," Roger W. Babson of Boston, who is connected with the United States employment service, and who recently left Washington to take charge of the Babson statistical organization, says:

"Twenty-five years ago the farmers of the country did not appreciate the work of the department of agriculture. They criticized and laughed at the suggestions of the department of agriculture. Committees of developing new products and of increasing production by proper methods were laughed at by the raising of crops. The situation is far different today. Now the farmers unreservedly recognize that the department of agriculture is their best friend, and the greatest regret of the farmers is that they did not take the advice of the department years ago.

"The department of labor is now seeking to do for industry what the department of agriculture has done for agriculture. It endeavors to assist employers in discovering latent possibilities of increasing and tapping new sources of labor. It can benefit the employer equally with the wage earner. The department of labor is now in a position to help manufacturers in securing a supply of labor when the possibilities is vast. Its bureau of labor statistics is the finest in the world for immediate and invaluable use to every manufacturer in the United States employment service, and particularly urge manufacturers not to lose one day in getting acquainted with the service. Many of the other bureaus and services of the department of labor are also of the highest value to manufacturers."